

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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TAGS: PFOR BF CU AO

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER ON CUBA AND ANGOLA

1. ASKED ON MONTHLY "CONTACT" PROGRAM APRIL 12 IF CUBAN ROLE IN ANGOLA WAS CAUSE OF CONCERN TO BAHAMAS, GCOB PRIME MINISTER PINDLING SAID IT CAUSED "NO CONCERN TO MAN ON STREET" OR "TO GOVERNMENT EITHER." GCOB'S CONCERN, HE ADDED, IS WITH "CAUSE OF AFRICAN MAJORITY THAT HAS JUST CLAIM." IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, "DEMOCRACIES OF WEST HAVE ALLOWED THEMSELVES TO BE CAUGHT BY TRICK," SINCE THEY FIND THEMSELVES SUPPORTING WHITE MINORITY REGIMES. TIME FOR DEMOCRACIES OF WEST TO CHANGE POSITION IS "RUNNING SHORT." "AS IN ANGOLA," PINDLING CONTINUED, RHODESIAN CIVIL WAR COULD LEAD TO "INTERFERENCE BY SEVERAL COUNTRIES." WHILE GCOB DEPLORES INTERFERENCE AS MATTER OF POLICY, IT ALSO SUPPORTS RIGHTS OF BLACK MAJORITY TO SELF-RULE. THOSE "INALIENABLE RIGHTS" HE CONCLUDED, "ARE MOST IMPORTANT."

2. COMMENT: THIS PUBLIC STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER, WHICH ALMOST SEEMS TO CONDONE CUBAN INTERFERENCE, DEPARTS FROM EARLIER IMPRESSIONS WE HAD GOTTEN IN PRIVATE OF GCOB CONCERN OVER CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA. APPEARING TO BE WELL-BRIEFED ON SUBJECT AND EXPECTING QUESTION, HE ANSWERED VERY CAREFULLY, LEAVING IMPRESSION THAT THIS IS HIS CONSIDERED
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POSITION. THERE IS NO REASON TO EXPECT, HOWEVER, THAT

GENERALLY PROPER BUT DISTANT STANCE OF GCOB TOWARD CUBA WILL
CHANGE. IN SAME BROADCAST, FOR EXAMPLE, PINDLING REMAINED
UNYIELDING ON QUESTION OF FISHING TALKS WITH CUBA, SAYING
"LIKELIHOOD OF SUCCESS IS EXTREMELY SLIM." MORE LIKELY,
PINDLING'S STATEMENT REFLECTS NATURAL AND POLITICALLY POPULAR
SENTIMENT IN THIS BLACK COUNTRY AGAINST WHITE MINORITY REGIMES
OF SOUTHERN AFRICA. IT IS ALSO POTENTIAL POLITICAL PLUS IN
THAT IT SHOWS DEGREE OF INDEPENDENCE FROM "DEMOCRACY OF WEST"
TO NORTH.
TAYLOR

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